

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0030767-10-0

Permittee: Ashland Sewage Utility, 2020 6th St East, Ashland, WI, 54806

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Ashland Sewage Utility, 1901 Knight Road, Ashland, Wisconsin

Receiving Water And Location: Chequamegon Bay of Lake Superior in the Fish Creek Watershed of the Lake Superior Drainage Basin, Ashland County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes The City of Ashland owns and operates a domestic wastewater treatment system. The plant designed to treat 1,920,000 gallons per day, currently treats an average of 1,222,000 gallons per day.

The facility consists of a step screen and aerated grit tank to remove debris from untreated wastewater before entering the oxidation ditches where it mixes with activated sludge which breaks down the organic matter. Activated sludge is composed of settled solids containing naturally occurring active biological material recycled from the treatment system. Alum is then added to the wastewater to precipitate phosphorus. The treated water is pumped into clarifiers where solids including phosphorus settle out. The cleaned wastewater (effluent) is disinfected year-round using an Ultra-Violet light system and discharged to Chequamegon Bay of Lake Superior.

Settled solids (sludge) are removed from the clarifiers; some are returned to the head of the oxidation ditches to re-seed the new wastewater entering the system. The sludge that is not used as activated sludge is treated by bacteria and organisms through aerobic digestion which reduces harmful pathogens. Water is removed from the sludge by a belt press before it is landspread on Department approved agricultural sites. If needed, liquid sludge can be removed prior to the belt press and landspread as needed.

The plant includes a retention basin to handle wet-weather flows in excess of the peak plant capacity. Wastewater collected in the retention basin is pumped back to the plant for treatment after peak flows are over.

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term. The proposed new permit expiration date will be March 31, 2027. Appropriate discharge limitations, monitoring requirements, and reporting conditions will be included in the permit. Changes from the previous permit include: [1] Fecal coliform monitoring and limits have been replaced with E. coli monitoring and limits. [2] Addition of quarterly sampling for N series (nitrate + nitrite, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and total nitrogen). And [3] Monthly monitoring for ammonia, copper, arsenic, chloride and hexachlorobenzene monitoring is required during the 2025 calendar year.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, (715) 635-4131, Sheri.Snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Eric de Venecia, DNR, 1701 N 4TH ST, Superior, WI 54880, (715) 685-4155, Eric.deVenecia@wisconsin.gov

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the above named permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is issued. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination. If no comments are received on the proposed permit from anyone, including U.S. EPA, the permit will be issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, may be inspected and copied at either the above named permit drafter's office or the above named basin engineer's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter or basin engineer for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (715) 635-4131 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the public notice, permit and fact sheet. Permit information is also available on the internet at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable

accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Daily Press

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 313, Ashland, WI 54806-0313

Date Notice Issued: February 22, 2022

STREAMLINED PUBLIC NOTICE VERSION FOR NEWSPAPER

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0030767-10-0

FOR THE COMPLETE PUBLIC NOTICE AND DETAILS GO TO THE WEB LINK:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>

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Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Ashland Sewage Utility, 1901 Knight Road, Ashland, Wisconsin

Receiving Water And Location: Chequamegon Bay of Lake Superior in the Fish Creek Watershed of the Lake Superior Drainage Basin, Ashland County

Brief Facility Description: The City of Ashland owns and operates a domestic wastewater treatment system that consist of a step screen and aerated grit tank, oxidation ditches, clarifiers and UV disinfection. Alum is added to the system to help precipitate phosphorus. Sludge aerobically digested and belt pressed before it is landspread on agricultural sites.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, (715) 635-4131, Sheri.Snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Eric de Venecia, DNR, 1701 N 4TH ST, Superior, WI, 54880, (715) 685-4155, Eric.deVenecia@wisconsin.gov

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is issued.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule an informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats. Information on requesting a hearing is at the above web link.

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, may be reviewed on the internet at the above web link or may be inspected and copied at the permit drafter's office during office hours. Information on this permit may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the public notice, permit and fact sheet. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.